



Relocation Information for Parents

Congratulations on making the decision to come to MIT! Located in a vibrant Cambridge neighborhood, MIT is a great place to work and study. When you arrive, there will be much to see and do, and many ways for you to join the diverse MIT community. Before making the move, however, there are some important things for you and your family to consider. We hope that you will review this information prior to your move, and contact the MIT Work-Life Center with any questions along the way. We are here to help!

The following sections detail some important information about public and private schools, kindergarten, pre-school, and summer camp. Child care and schools in the Cambridge–Boston area may be very different from what you are used to. By carefully reading this webpage, you can prepare for a positive relocation experience and avoid some common pitfalls.

Child Care for Young Children (under 5 years old)

If you are in need of child care as soon as you arrive in the Cambridge–Boston area, we strongly recommend that you begin the search several months in advance of your arrival. Child care centers and family day care homes often have a waitlist, making immediate enrollment very difficult.

If you are in need of child care and your child is younger than 4-1/2 years old (or 5 years old, depending on the town's kindergarten entry age), you will need to consider child care options outside of the public school system. Some towns do offer a public pre-school program, but space is usually limited.

You will need to pay for certain kinds of child care, including child care centers, family day care homes, and in-home care such as nannies and au pairs. The Work-Life Center will be happy to discuss these choices with you, and refer you to resources that can help you evaluate these options. Please call us at 617-253-1592, or email worklife@mit.edu for assistance.

MIT Child Care Centers

The Technology Childcare Centers (TCC) are comprised of four Child Care Centers on the MIT Campus and one at Lincoln Laboratory, which take care of children from birth to pre-kindergarten. Since there is usually a wait list, we recommend applying to TCC as soon as possible to increase your chances of getting space for your desired start date. For more information, see childcare.mit.edu.

Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten

Pre-school in Massachusetts is not free. If you are hoping for your child to be in pre-school when you arrive, please contact the Work-Life Center for guidance and resources as soon as you decide to come to MIT.



Child Care for School-Age Children

Kindergarten Entry Age

The age at which your child is eligible to enter kindergarten will vary from town to town in the Boston area. Some towns and cities allow children who are 4.5 years old as of September 1 to enter kindergarten, while others require children to be 5 years old by September 1 (with no exceptions). Since pre-school in Massachusetts is not free, it is very important to consider the cut-off age for kindergarten. If you plan to send your child to kindergarten, consider choosing where you live based on the kindergarten entry age in that city. Age requirements for each school district can be found on that town's public school website.

Public Schools in the Greater Boston Area

The public school system in each Boston-area town and city is slightly different. In some locations, schools are assigned based on your street address; in other locations, your child may be placed into a school anywhere in your town. No matter when you arrive, if your child is old enough to attend school, he or she will be given a place in a public school class. All towns and cities will provide English Language Learner Programs.

In order to register for public schools in any town, you will need to have proof of residence in that town. This means that you will need a document that proves that you will be living in that town. If you are not able to secure a place to live before your arrival, this is something that you can do once you arrive. Please check your town's public school website for more specifics about the registration process.

Private Schools in the Cambridge–Boston Area

If you are interested in exploring local private school options, please [contact the Work-Life Center](#) and we will be happy to assist you.

Cambridge Public Schools

Because MIT is located in Cambridge, many families choose to live in Cambridge and put their children in the Cambridge Public Schools district. The public school registration process in Cambridge is centralized, which means that your child will be assigned to a school and a classroom with available space. This could be anywhere in the city. Grade placement is based on your child's birthdate with the cut-off being August 31. Therefore, children who turn 6 after August 31 will be placed in kindergarten. Those born before August 31 will be placed in first grade.



Once you arrive, you must follow two important steps to register your child in the Cambridge Public Schools:

1. You will need to fill out a Cambridge Public Schools registration package. You can access all school registration forms online or visit the Family Resource Center of Cambridge to pick up the registration package in person. No appointment is necessary to visit the center Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM. It is located at 459 Broadway. If you have any questions, please contact the Cambridge Family Resource Center by phone at 617-349-6551.
2. All completed registration forms must be delivered to the Cambridge Family Resource Center in person in order to be processed. It is important to complete the registration process as soon as possible to ensure that you have enough time to complete all the necessary steps. These include getting the proper immunizations for your child before school begins. A complete list of required immunizations is available [here](#).

Summer Camps

If you will be arriving in the summer and would like to enroll your children in summer camps upon your arrival, it is best to plan for this as far in advance as possible to increase your chances of getting a space in a camp of your choice. Please contact the Work-Life Center (call 617-253-1592, or email worklife@mit.edu) for assistance in finding a summer camp that is right for your family.

Learn More

The Work-Life Center can help with other questions that you have relating to your relocation. Whether you are looking for English classes, after-school care, local career options, or general guidance about the Cambridge area, we can help you! Learn more about additional Work-Life Center benefits and services [here](#). For many of these questions, the Work-Life Center has programs or services that will connect you to the resources that you need!